

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT Appln. No. PCT/EP2005/002541 filed March 10, 2005, which claims priority to German application 10 2004 014 686.1 filed March 25, 2004.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 9, please add the following:

2. Description of the Related Art

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 9 as shown below:

Free-radically curable coating compositions which comprise nanoscale fillers surface-modified with organic radicals and which cure to coatings of high mechanical hardness and chemical resistance are known. With coating compositions of this kind an appropriate modification of the particle surface ensures compatibility of the particle with the surrounding polymer matrix. Where the particle surface possesses, moreover, a suitable reactivity for the matrix, so that it is able to react with the binder system under the particular curing conditions of the coating system, it is possible to incorporate the particles chemically into the matrix in the course of curing, which frequently has a ~~frequently~~ positive effect on the profile of properties of the composite system.

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 23 as shown below:

Free-radically curable, particle-reinforced coating compositions are described *inter alia* in US 4455205 A and US 4491508 A and are obtained, ~~[[by,]]~~ for example, by reacting colloidal silicon dioxide with 3-methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane and subsequently exchanging the aqueous and/or alcoholic solvent for a free-radically crosslinkable organic binder. Coating compositions of this kind can be used, for example, for coating thermoplastic substrates.

On page 4, before line 15, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 15 as shown below:

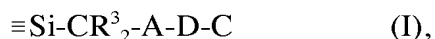
~~[[The]]~~ An object on which of the present invention is based is that of providing to provide a coating system which is curable with actinic radiation or thermally, which does not have the abovementioned disadvantages of the known systems and which, furthermore, is characterized by a profile of properties of the cured coatings that ~~is an improvement on the~~ improves upon known systems. These and other objects are achieved by providing functionalized particles prepared by reaction of particles with an ethylenically unsaturated silane wherein the silicon atom of the silane is separated from an electron-withdrawing group by a methylene spacer.

On page 4, before line 21, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 21 as shown below:

The invention provides curable compositions **Z** comprising a binder **BM** that carries at least one ethylenically unsaturated group and also particles **P** which possess at least one ethylenically unsaturated group on their surface and contain radicals of the general formula I,



where

- R³** is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, whose carbon chain can be interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR⁴ groups,
- R⁴** is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms,
- A** is oxygen, sulfur, =NR⁴ or =N-(D—C),
- D** is a carbonyl group, or an alkylene, cycloalkylene or arylene radical having in each case 1 to 12 carbon atoms, it being possible for the carbon chain to be interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR⁴ groups, and
- C** is an ethylenically unsaturated group.